



*St. Leon's*

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

25<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1960

SWISS CHALET

ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

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### *Acknowledgment*

The Parish Council wishes to express its deep gratitude to the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee for making possible this Dinner Dance. Special thanks must be given to General Chairman Anthony H. Purpuse, to all of the hard working committee chairmen, secretaries and members, all of whom spared no effort in making this celebration a most memorable one; and all the many others who gave of their time and energy in the search for materials and pictures.

It was impossible to get some of the desired photographs. For this and many other omissions that may have inadvertently occurred, we ask your kind indulgence.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

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HIS HOLINESS, VASKEN THE FIRST  
130th Patriarch Catholicos of All Armenians

## Archbishop Leon Tourian

Founder of  
ST. LEON'S CHURCH



ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ ԷԱՅՈՑ  
ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ

PRELACY OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH  
OF AMERICA

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.  
Room 1006 - 1008

Telephone CHelsea 3-1781

11 April 1933

Արքեպիսկոպոս  
Տեղապետական Գրասենյակ  
Կոնստանդուպոլիս

Պատվով եմ ձեր նշանակման անուշիկ  
կ' ընդունեմ ձեր և ձեր քրոնոստրոն  
անդամակցությունը ձեր և ձեր  
ժողովրդի նշանակման քրոնոստրոն  
Արքեպիսկոպոսական Գրասենյակ Տեղա  
Պատվով եմ ձեր նշանակման անուշիկ  
անդամակցությունը ձեր և ձեր  
ժողովրդի նշանակման քրոնոստրոն

Արքեպիսկոպոսական Գրասենյակ  
Արքեպիսկոպոսական Գրասենյակ  
Պատվով եմ ձեր նշանակման անուշիկ  
անդամակցությունը ձեր և ձեր  
ժողովրդի նշանակման քրոնոստրոն



HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP SION MANOOGIAN  
Primate, Diocese of North America



Diocese of the Armenian Church  
of North America

ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴԱՐԱՆ ՀԱՅՈՑ  
ՀԻՒՍԻՍԱՅԻՆ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ  
ՍՈՐ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՍՍ ՄԱՆՈՎԿՅԱՆ  
Առաջնորդ

630 Second Avenue, New York 16, N.Y. ★ Murray Hill 6-0710

Archbishop Sion Manougian  
Primate

Թիւ 1177  
Մարտ 31, 1960

Բարեշնորհ  
Անդրանիկ Արկ. Հալլաճեան  
Հոգեւոր Մտակարար  
Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցւոյ  
Փէթրոսըն.

Սիրելի Անդրանիկ Սարկաւազ,

Փէթրոսընի Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցւոյ 25 ամեայ տարե-  
դարձին առթիւ՝ հաճելի է մեզի համար, որ շուրջ 25 Եկեղեցւոյ պատուար-  
ժան Միական խորհուրդը, Եկեղեցասէր Տիկնանց ու Երիտասարդաց կազմա-  
կերպութիւնները, ու համայնքիդ Հայաստանեայց Եկեղեցւոյ բոլոր պար-  
տաճանաչ ու հաւատարիմ զաւակները: Մասնաւոր զնահատանքի արժանի են  
ծուխիդ անձնուէր ու զոհաբերող անդամները՝ որոնք հիմը դրին Եկեղեցիին  
ու մինչեւ ցայսօր կը շարունակեն իրենց Եկեղեցանուէր ծառայութիւնը:

Եկեղեցւոյդ 25 ամեակի տօնակատարութիւնը բացառիկ առիթ մըն  
է ներշնչումի եւ խանդավառութեան՝ Ձեր համայնքի բոլոր անդամներուն  
համար, մասնաւորաբար նոր սերունդին համար, որոնք պէտք է զնահատել  
գիտնան իրենց՝ հայրերուն զոհողութիւնը եւ ուխտեն հաւատարիմ մնալ մեր  
բարեպաշտ նախնեաց լուսաւորչաւանդ հաւատքին ու սրբազան ժառանգութեան,  
միեւնոյն ատեն ջանան աւելի զօրացնել ու ճոխացնել իրենց ժառանգ թող-  
ուած աւանդը, նոր եռանդով ու նոր գործերով:

Եկեղեցւոյդ տարեդարձը լաւագոյն պատեհութիւնն է Ձեր հա-  
մայնքին համար՝ վերանորոգելու իր հաւատարմութեան ուխտը՝ հանդէպ  
Եկեղեցւոյդ պաշտպան Ղեւոնդեանց քահանայից հաւատքին, Մայր Աթոռ Ս.  
Էջմիածնին ու Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Ս. Եկեղեցւոյ:

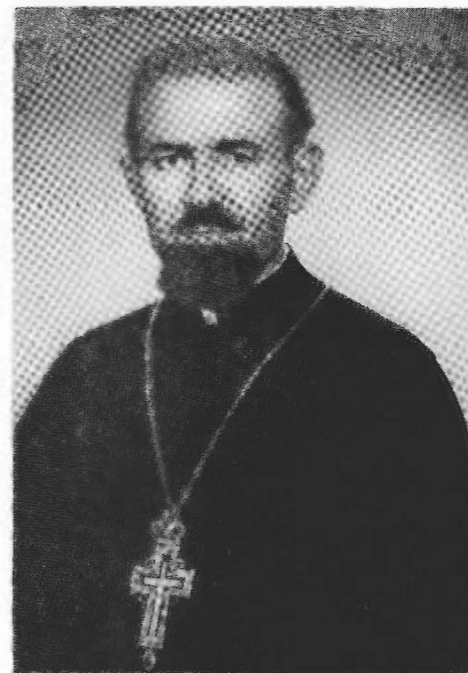
Այս երջանիկ առթիւ՝ սիրով կ'օրհնենք զՁեզ եւ Ձեր Եկեղեց-  
ւոյ պատուարժան Միական խորհուրդը, համայնքիդ բոլոր ազգանուէր ծա-  
ռայողները ու մեր բարեպաշտ ու հաւատաւոր ժողովուրդը:

Մնամք Տիրաւանդ սիրոյ որ շունչիւ  
եւ օրհնութեամբ  
Աղօթարար

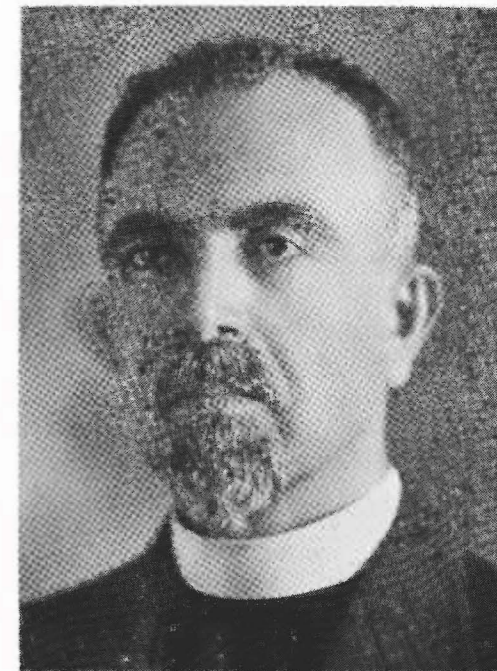
ՍԻՈՆ ԱՐՔԵՊԻՍԿՈՍՍ  
Առաջնորդ Հայոց Ամերիկայի



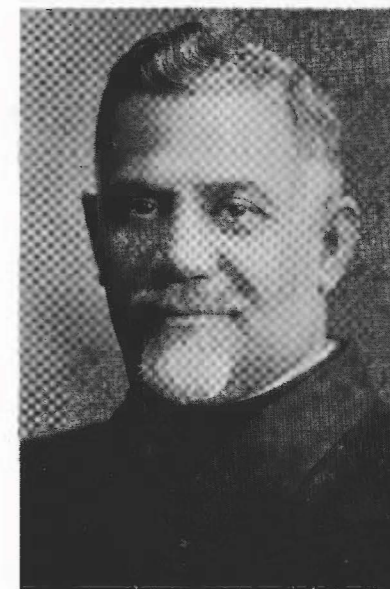
HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP MAMPRE CALFAYAN  
Former Primate, North American Diocese



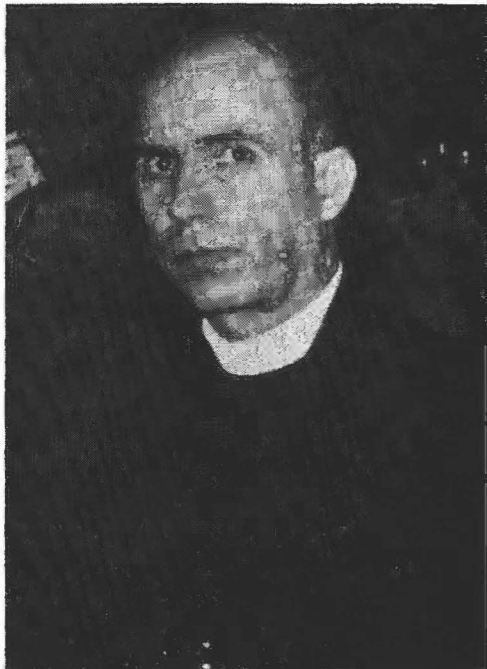
BISHOP SHNORHK KALOUSTIAN



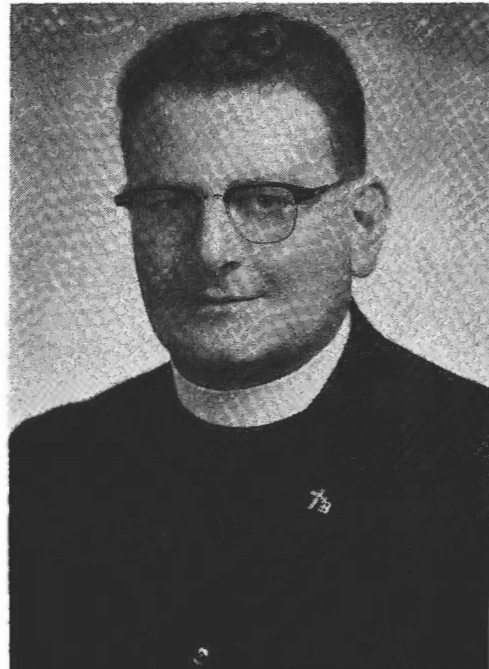
REV. VAHAN JELALIAN



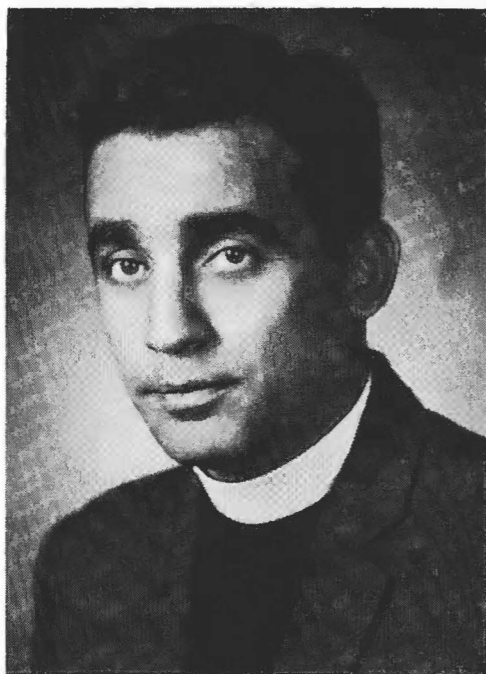
REV. H. KAVOUKJIAN



REV. VARTAN DER ASSADOURIAN



REV. ARTEN ASHJIAN



DEACON ANTRANIK HALLAJIAN



FUTURE HOME OF ST. LEON'S CHURCH

### Ս. ՂԵՒՈՆԴԵԱՆՑ ԵԿԵՂԵՏԻ ՓԷԹԸՐՍԸՆ

Փէթըրընի Հայ դպրութիւն սկսած է կազմուիլ 1880-ական թուականներուն: Առաջին անգամ, այդ տարիներուն է որ, մեծ մասամբ Տիգրանակերտէն Եկած պանդուխտներ հաս հաստատուած են: Ասանցմէ կը յիշուին Տիգրանակերտցիներ՝ Չանդալեան, Թոփրաճեան-Էան, Համալեան եւ Պօղոս Աճէմեան, իրենց ընտանիքներով: Ամուրի երկտասարդներ՝ Միքայէլ Թաճմաղեան, Տիգրան Պէշկէօթիւրեան եւ Ճորճ Թաղազեան: Ասանցմէ շատերը կը դրացէին մեծաքսի ուսուցիչներով:

1895ի հայկական կոտորածներէն լեռոյ մեր գաղութին անդամներուն թիւը կը բարձրանայ 200ի, որ յետոյ, տարիներու ընթացքին կը հասնի մինչեւ 500ի, հաշուելով նաեւ շրջակայքի հայերը:

1898ին, առաջին անգամ ըլլալով, հայ եկեղեցական արարողութիւն կը

կատարուի տեղւոյս Եպիսկոպոսական Եկեղեցիին մէջ, ուր կը պատարազէ Յովսէփ Եպիսկոպոս Սարաճեան, Ամերիկայի Հայոց առաջին առաջնորդը:

Մինչեւ 1930՝ մեր համայնքը կապուած էր Եռուերն Սիթիի Ս. Սաշ Եկեղեցիին, եւ կը բաւականանար այցելու հովիւներով, որոնք կուգային սրբաբար եւ կը պատարազէին, մկրտութիւններ, պատկեր եւ թաղումներ կը կատարէին, երբ պէտք ըլլար, տեղական զպիրներու եւ սարկաւազներու անջակցութեամբ:

Այդ տարիներուն՝ հոգարարձութեան մասնակցած են Միսաք Տիգեան, Նազարէթ Սահաթեան, Սարգիս Հորեան, Սեդրակ Աճէմեան, Կարապետ Պօղոսեան, Մարտիրոս Թէլալեան, Եղիշ Չէրչեան, Յովհ. Տիգեան, Հայկ Տիգեան, Փոյ Ճերահեան, Թուխման Պաղայեան, Տիգրան Ապաճեան, Միսրան Նուրիկեան, Փոյ Տիգեան, եւ Յովսէփ Փռատեան:

Բայց մեր համայնքը միշտ այ կը բազմարեւ պէտքը կը զբար ունենալ վր սեփական եկեղեցին ու իր հովիւը: Եւ 1929ի հոգաբարձութիւնը, նախորդահուծեամբ Մամբրէ Վարդապետ Գալֆայեանի, որ մեր այցելու հովիւն էր, կ'որոշէ գնել 100ով հարիւր սոք տարածութեամբ դեռին մը, ապագային դործածելու համար եկեղեցիի մը շինութեան համար:

Բայց դժբախտաբար, երկրին մէջ տիրող անդործութեան պատճառաւ կարելի չեղաւ իրականացնել շինութեան ծրարը:

1932ին, օրուան Առաջնորդ Ղեւոնդ Արք. Դուբեանի նախագահութեամբ կատարուեցաւ խորհրդակցական ժողով մը, ուր Սրբազան Հայր կազմեց եկեղեցիի գնման մտայն Յանձնախումբ մը, որպէսզի կարելի ըլլայ գնել մեր ներկայ եկեղեցին որ այն ատեն կը կոչուէր Սէնթ Լիւք եւ կը պատկանէր Եպիսկոպոսական եկեղեցւոյ: Ծնորձիւ Դուբեան Սրբազանին սենցած անձնական բարեկամութեան եպիսկոպոսական եկեղեցւոյ Առաջնորդին հետ կը գիրանայ գնման գործը: Իսկ Սամուէլ Հէքիմեան (Հէքիմեան) իրը մասնագէտ Ռիլլ Սրէյք-ը կը պատրաստէ գնման գործառնութեանց թուղթերը: Գնման Յանձնախումբի անդամներ Ծովինար Նարդանտեան, Վարդուհի Պապուհան, Հայկ Տիշեան, Միշրան Նուրիկեան, Սեղբակ Անճեմեան, Յարութիւն Սոյիկեան, Արամ Թիւրքեան եւ Մկրտիչ Ազրեան կը գործեն անխնայ: Հակասակ երկրին մէջ տիրող անդործութեան կարելի կ'ըլլայ 6000 տարբով գնել մեր ներկայ եկեղեցւոյ շէնքը, սրուն նորոգութեան համար այ մինչեւ այսօր ծախսուած է աւելի քան 10,000 տարբի գումար մը: Ծնորձիւ Փէթրարնի հաւատացեալ ժողովուրդին գահադրութեան եւ եկեղեցւոյ բարեկարգելու Տօթ. Յ. Ալշիանի, Յ. Սոյիկեանի, Միսաք Թիւֆէնքի, ու Բիւրճեան եւ Տիշեան կորաբերու ու Չաքլի եւ Էրլի Հօթիլի-

եաններու առատաձեռն նուիրատուութեանց կարելի կ'ըլլայ երկու տարուան կարճ ժամանակամիջոցին վճարել եկեղեցւոյ ունեցած ամբողջ պարտքը: Այս շրջանի Նորոգաբարձութեան անդամները եւս չեն խնայեր ոչ մէկ աշխատանք կառնակերպելու համար դադութիւն եւ նաեւ եկեղեցին հասցնելու արտեսական ապահովութեան, որոնց անդամներն էին Սեղբակ Անճեմեան, Սիւսակ Նարդանտեան (այժմ Թորէն Բահանայ), Ալէք Փիլեան, Ալէք Վարդանէտեան, Միշրան Նուրիկեան, Թուրման Պապուհան, Յակոբ Գալֆայեան եւ Տիշեան Միշրան Սոյիկեան եւ Խանրճ Ծահինեան:

Եկեղեցւոյ հովիւները եղած են՝ Տ. Յովհ. Բահայ. Գալֆայեան՝ 1936 - 1938, Տ. Մամբրէ Արք. Գալֆայեան՝ 1939 - 1941, Տ. Վահան Բահայ. Ճէրայեան՝ 1941 - 1947, Տ. Ծնորձիւ Եպիսկոպոսեան՝ 1948 - 1951, Տ. Արամ Բահայ. Անճեմեան՝ 1951 - 1953, Տ. Մամբրէ Արքեպ. Գալֆայեան՝ 1953 - 1954, Տ. Վարդան Բահայ. Առատուբեան՝ 1955 - 1957:

Իսկ ներկայիս հովուութիւնը կը կատարէ Անդրանիկ Սարկ. Հարլանտեան, որ կը պատրաստուի քահանայութեան պաշտօնին համար:

Եկեղեցւոյ բոլոր հովիւներն այ իրենց բարբառուէր ծառայութեամբ նորոգուած են եկեղեցւոյ յատկաբարձութեան եւ բարեկարգման ու նաեւ տրուած՝ հոգեւոր միջոցառութիւն Փէթրարնի եւ շրջակայ հայ ժողովուրդին: Մասնաւորաբար Տ. Մամբրէ Արքեպ. Գալֆայեան, իր ատալին հովուութեան շրջանին (1939-41) կատարած է շատ մը նորոգութիւններ իրենց գործակից ունենալով գլխաւորաբար Մահակ Աւետիսեան եւ Արմենակ Մարտիրոսեան, Յարութիւն Սոյիկեան, Ճան եւ Գառնիկ Նազաչեաններ: Սրբազան Հայր կրցած է իրականացնել սրահին ընդհանուր նորոգութիւնը: Դարձեալ Սրբազան Հօր Գանճեպով կարելի եղած է եկեղեցիին ներս կառարել ընդհանուր



1st Annual Miss Tree  
ST. LEON APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
MAY 16th 1934  
Photo ART Studio  
449 MARKET ST.  
R. T. J. T. J.

նորոգութիւններ: Վերանորոգած են Աւագ Սարանը, ինչպէս նաեւ ձախակոյմեան եւ աջակոյմեան խորանները: Ծինուած է Մկրտութեան Աւագանը, ու գունաւոր ապակիէ բոլոր պատահանները՝ զանազան սղալիներու նուիրատուութեամբ:

Արդ եկեղեցին պատրաստ էր օծումի համար: Ամերիկահայաց Առաջնորդ, եղջանկալիչատակ Գաբրիել Արքեպ. Յովսէփեան 1941 Հոկտեմբեր 5-ին կը կատարէ եկեղեցւոյ օծումը եւ կը կոչէ Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցի: Օծման արարողութեանց մասնակցած են Տ. Մամբրէ Արք. Գալֆայեան, Տ. Յովսէփ Եպիս. Կարապետեան եւ Դեբեդեհի Եպիս. Փօլատեան:

1958-ին, մեր երեսուցորդ հոգաբարձուներու ջանքերու եւ Պրն. Յարութիւն Նազաչեանի աջակցութեան շնորհիւ կարելի եղաւ գնել նոր հայ մը, Սէտրլ Ռիվյըր Ռօտին վրայ, մեկը մօ-

տակայ Փէրթի քաղաքին մէջ, մօտ ապագային նոր եկեղեցիի մը շինութեան ծրարով, որպէսզի կարելի ըլլայ լատարն թաւարարութիւն տալ հետզհետէ մեր շրջանին մէջ բողոքացող հայ նոր սերունդին պէտքերուն: Գեղեցիկ եւ ընդարձակ գեան մըն է, երեք էջքը տարածութեամբ, որուն վրայ կան երկու տուններ: Նպատակ ունինք նախ շինել սրահ մը, համայնքի իրը գործունէութեան կեդրան, եւ յետոյ կառուցանել նաեւ արդիական եկեղեցի մը, հինն աւելի մեծ եւ յարմար:

Փէթրարնի Սրբոց Ղեւոնդեանց Եկեղեցին 25 տարեկան շարունակ եղած է միակ հոգեւոր տունը շրջակայ հայութեան: Ան ատուած է հայ հաւատացեալներուն հոգեւոր եւ իմացական ներշնչում, որպէսզի անոնք կարենան պաշտել իրենց հայրերուն Առտուածը ու սրահին իրենց ապագային եւ մշակութային արժէքները:

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## THE HISTORY

of

### ST. LEON'S APOSTOLIC ARMENIAN CHURCH

The Armenian community of Paterson had its beginning in 1880. In those early years most of the immigrants came from Degranagerd to establish themselves in Paterson. Families coming to Paterson during this time included the Chankalians, Toprahanians, Hamalians, and the Boghos Ajamians. Also present were Dicran Beshgeturian, Michael Tamazian and George Takakjian. Most of the men were textile workers.

Many Armenians immigrated to this country after the Armenian massacre in Turkey in 1896. During this period the Armenian population in Paterson increased to 200 persons and within a few years reached 500 persons. This figure included all Armenians in the Paterson area.

The first Armenian Church service was held in the local Episcopal Church in 1898. Divine Liturgy (Badarak) was performed by Bishop Hovsep Sarajian, who was the first primate of the Armenian Diocese of America.

For the most part however, the Armenian community attended service at the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City. Until 1930 the people of Paterson were satisfied having visiting pastors who came occasionally to celebrate Divine Liturgy, perform baptisms, weddings and funerals. These services were performed with the help of local deacons and acolytes. During these years, a Parish Council was formed. Members of the council were Misak Dishian, Nazareth Sahatjian, Sarkis Hopelian, Setrag Ajemian, Mardiros Telalian, Yeghishe Churechian, Hovhannes Dishian, Haig Dishian,

Paul Jerrahian, Dicran Abajian, Tookman Bakalian, Garabed Der Boghosian, Paul Dishian, Hovsep Pushoojian and Mihran Noorigian.

But the Armenian community in Paterson felt the necessity of having its own church and pastor. In 1929, the Parish Council, under the leadership of Mampre Vartabed Calfayan (now Archbishop) decided to buy land for future use as a church site. Mampre Vartabed Calfayan was the visiting pastor in the late 1920's. Plans were drawn for purchase of a land site, but because of the depression, the project had to be abandoned.

In 1932, at a special meeting presided over by Primate Archbishop Leon Turian, a fund raising committee was formed. Its purpose: to purchase the present church, which at that time belonged to the Episcopal Church and was called St. Luke. Funds for the down payment were quickly raised and purchase of the church secured through the offices of Turian Archbishop and the Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Samuel Hekemian, a professional real estate man, prepared the necessary papers for purchase of the church. The fund raising committee members were Harry Soghigian, Mugurdich Akelian, Dzo-vinar Nalbandian, Haig Dishian, Mihran Noorigian, Setrag Ajemian, Vartouhi Marootian, and Vartouhi Bakalian.

The church was bought for \$6,000 and more than \$10,000 was spent during the following years for renovations and repairs. Although in the midst of the depression, generous donations by faithful church members and by the sponsors of the church, Dr.

H. Beshlian, Harry Soghigian, Misak T'fank, Charles and Elsie Holopikian and the Kurkjian and Dishian brothers, it was possible to pay the entire mortgage within two years.

Parish Council members also sacrificed their time and effort to organize the parish and have the church in secure financial basis. Members of the Parish Council were Setrag Ajemian, Sesak Nalbandian (Khoren Kahana Mamigonian) Alec Filian, Alec Vartanesian, Mihran Noorigian, Tookman Bakalian, Hagop Kafafian, Manoosh Soghomonian and Hannah Sahinian.

The pastors of the Paterson church have been: Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Kavookjian, 1936-1938; Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, 1939-1941; Rev. Fr. Vahan Jelalian, 1941-1947; Bishop Shnork Kaloustian, 1948-1951; Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, 1951-1953; Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, 1953-1954; and Rev. Fr. Vartan Assadourian, 1955-1957.

At the present time the pastoral work is done by Deacon Antranik Hallajian who is preparing for the priesthood.

All pastors of the Paterson church have been devoted persons and have worked for the progress of the church. They have given spiritual guidance and leadership to the Armenian people in the Paterson area. Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, during his first pastorate in 1939-1941, initiated the task of restoring sections of the church. He was greatly aided by Sahag Avedisian, Armenag Mardirosian, Harry Soghigian and John and Carnig Nakashian. Archbishop Mampre Calfayan was able to bring into reality the general repair of the hall and alterations made in the church proper. This included

restoring the main altar as well as the left and right altars. The baptism basin and stained glass windows were installed through the general donations of the parishioners.

The church was now ready for consecration. Archbishop Karaken Hovsepian, primate of the Armenian Diocese of America, consecrated the church, October 5, 1941, and named it St. Leon's. The clergy participating during the consecration were Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Bishop Hovsep Garabedian, and Bishop Terenig Poladian.

In 1958, through the efforts of the young Parish Council members, and with the help of Mr. Haroutune Nakashian, three acres of land was purchased on Saddle River Road, in Fair Lawn. This property is for the future church building and hall. The newly purchased land, with two homes on the property, is spacious and ideally located for the building of the new church and hall. The immediate plan is to erect a much needed church center and follow it with the building of the new church.

St. Leon's Armenian Church of Paterson has been the only spiritual center for the past 25 years for Armenians in this area. The Church has given spiritual and intellectual inspiration to her parishioners and has enabled them to worship their God and maintain their national and cultural heritage.

It is the hope that the young generation, with faith and love, will continue the task which their fathers began. The Armenian community trusts that they will be able to strengthen themselves through services to St. Leon's Church and that they will raise their children in the faith of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

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**ՏԻՎԱՆՑ ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ**

Հայ Արղը Երբ իր քաղաքական անկախութիւնը կորսնցուց, Հայ Եկեղեցին դարձաւ Հայ Սոցիալաբոլիտիկական եւ իմացական արժեքներու պահպանման եւ զարգացման ապաստանարանը, եւ մեր նախահայրերը զարկ զար իրենց դաւակնութեան ակննդներուն հնչած են այս պարագան:

Որպէս ազգանուէր եւ Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ դաւակներ՝ ներշնչուած ըլլալով մեր նախնիքներու պարտը հաւատքէն, խումբ մը ազնուահոգի տիկիները Սեպտեմբեր 1, 1928-ին վր կազմեն Եկեղեցասիրացի Միութիւն Փէթրբորնի մէջ: Հիմնադիրները եղած են Տիկնայք, Վարդուհի Մարութեան, Նէմուշ Մաթեան, Մունշ Մարտիան, Սօֆի Թուփան եւ Կատար Ալճեան:

Տիկնայք Միութեան առաջին տարուան զորմունքները տաւելարար եղած է փորձառական եւ կազմակերպչական շրջան մը: Մասնաւոր ջանք տարուած է անդամուհիներու թիւը շատցնել: Հետեւելով Հայաստանեայց

Եկեղեցւոյ կանոնադրին, անդամուհիները կրցած են լաւագոյն հասկնայ զիրար ու Միութեան նպատակը:

Գումարած է ժողովներ Պատուաբաժան Հոգաբարձութեան հետ, որպէս օժանդակ մէկ մարմինը սնոր, ու խորհած է ստեղծել միջոցներ՝ նիւթական որոշ գումարներ ձեռք բերելու. որպէս զի Փէթրբորնի Հայ հաւատացեալ դաւակներուն տարբերութեամբ իրականանայ սեփական եկեղեցի մը սեննալով:

Ներկայ մեր եկեղեցւոյ գնման ընթացքին Տիկնայք Միութեան անդամները մեծ դեր կատարած են, ձեռնարկներ սարքելով, ինչպէս նաեւ հանգանակիչ Յանձնախումբերու մէջ իրենց մասնակցութիւնը բերելով: Հետագային, նոր եւ երիտասարդ ուժերու շնորհիւ, Միութիւնը կարողացած է խորհիլ տարեկան ձեռնարկներու մասին, տարով պայար մը, Մեծ Պահոց հաշիւ Լճաբարձման Տօնի առիթով Վիկտորիա տանգալիան տօնակատարութիւնը, սրտեր միշտ այ մեծ յաջողութիւններով պատկուած են:



LADIES AID EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



LADIES AID AUXILIARY

1953-ին Տիկնայք Միութիւնը տօնեց իր 25ամեակի տարեդարձը: Օրուան հովիտը՝ Տ. Մամբրէ Արքեպ. Գալֆտեան այս առիթիւ 18 անդամուհիներուն առաւ արժաթեայ խաչեր, առ ի գնահատութիւն անոնց 25 տարեկան նուիրուած ծառայութեան:

Տիկնայք Միութիւնը ինչպէս անցեալին, հիմակ այ իր 80 անդամուհիներով թէ՛ բարոյապէս եւ թէ՛ նիւթապէս կը ձգտի օժանդակել մեր եկեղեցւոյ պայծառութեան:

Այս առիթիւ Տիկնայք Միութիւնը իր Երախտագրութեան եւ շնորհալուծութեան խօսքը նաեւ կ'սուղ բոնկ մեր գրացի բոյր եկեղեցիներէր Տիկնայք Միութեաններուն, որոնք ամէն առիթներով բաջտելած են մեր ձեռնարկները իրենց ներկայութեամբ:

**LADIES AID SOCIETY**

For the Armenians outside of their native country, the Armenian Church has always been their spiritual and intellectual center. Here, Armenians maintain the inheritance of their forefathers: and this fact has always been recognized from generation to generation.

Being devoted daughters of the Armenian Apostolic Church and inspired by the Strong Christian faith of our ancestors, a group of kind hearted ladies initiated the Ladies Aid Society September 1, 1928, in Paterson. The charter members were Vartouhi Marootian, Nemzoor Sahatjian, Munooch Mazoojian, Sofie Turpan and Gadar Aljian.

In the beginning the Ladies Aid launched a strong membership drive. The result was the formation of a strong and active group.



LADIES AID AUXILIARY

Over the years, the Ladies Aid worked to find ways and means to raise money in order to bring into reality the wish of the faithful children of the Armenians in Paterson: and that was to have their own church.

When the church was purchased, the members of the Ladies Aid sponsored affairs and worked as members of the fund raising committee. As the years went by, new and young members joined the Ladies Aid. A large and strong membership enabled the Ladies Aid to work out a program of annual affairs. This included a bazaar, lenten dinner and veegak — the traditional festival — on the occasion of the Ascension. All of these affairs have always been great successes.

In 1953, the Ladies Aid Society celebrated its 25th anniversary. Pastor Archbishop Mampré Calfayan presented silver crosses to eighteen members as token of appreciation for their 25 years of devoted service.

The Ladies Aid Society, with its 80 members, is continuing its moral and financial support for the progress of the church.

Taking this opportunity, the Ladies Aid Society of St. Leon's Church expresses its gratitude and thanks to its sister branches in the Metropolitan area who have always cooperated and encouraged the Paterson chapter with their presence and participation in the local programs of St. Leon's Ladies Aid Society.

## ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL



St. Leon's first Armenian Church Sunday School was begun under the guidance of Bishop Shnork Kaloustian, then pastor of St. Leon's Church. He expressed his wish to have a Sunday School organized for young children born and baptized into the faith and parish, and whose parents wished them to have religious training.

The first session was held on Sunday morning, May 1, 1949, with a teaching staff of two, Mr. Leo Bakalian and Miss Bette Noorigian. Seven children attended. Within one month, the number had grown to 14 children. Lessons and curriculum were devised through the ingenuity of the teachers. Two years later Sunday School membership had increased to thirty children and three teachers, the third teacher being Yerezkin A. Ashjian.

As the Sunday School grew, it became important that the school have additional teachers. The children's age difference were becoming a problem. The children had to be placed in graded classes. Within a year or two, the teaching staff had grown to six teachers and a secretary-treasurer. Where did these teachers come from? From among our mothers. These wonderful women who

managed homes and families and held jobs during the week, agreed to help the Sunday School "temporarily." Of these teachers, only one has resigned.

All teachers have now attended and received certificates from the Sunday School teachers instruction classes. Week-end seminars are held periodically by the Committee for Religious Education of the Diocese of North America.

The Sunday School now follows the recommended curriculum of the CRE, and receives from that organization all material taught on the History of Armenia, the Armenian Church — its creeds, sacraments, feast days, holy days, saints and martyrs, and other events. Sunday School children receive a well-rounded education of the Holy Bible.

Today, the Sunday School has grown to 48 children with a teaching staff of five teachers, four substitutes, two supervisors, one pianist, and a secretary-treasurer. Individual classes are held from 10:45 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., every Sunday. An assembly program is held from 11:30 to 12 P.M., this beginning with the reading of verses from the Bible by one of the Junior class

pupils. This is followed by the Hair Mer said in unison by the assemblage. The collection of envelopes is then made and praises are sung by the children. Birthday greetings are given to all children whose birthdays fall during the ensuing week. A lesson is then given on the subject of the feasts celebrated by the church during the week and on that particular Sunday. Should no feasts be listed on the church's calendar, then the lessons cover the history of the Armenian church, of its clergy or services of the church. The children are then taught shragans of the Holy Badarak. The shragans are translated and explained in English to give pupils the opportunity of understanding what is being sung. They are also taught the various aspects of the Holy Badarak in order that they may have a deeper and closer understanding of this beautiful and mystical service. The assembly is closed with the singing of the Hair Mer.

Of the children who started on that first Sunday in May 1949, some have joined the choir; others are training to become teachers and are now holding positions as substitutes; and some of our boys are serving in the U. S. Armed Forces.

Sunday School children have not only benefited religiously, but have made many good friends and friendships among themselves.



BETTE NOORIGIAN  
Superintendent of Sunday School



### ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Sponsoring an Armenian School has always been the wish of Armenians in the Paterson area. An Armenian school was first formed prior to the purchase of the Armenian Church in Paterson. First Classes were held in private homes. After the purchase of the present church, the Parish Council, meeting April 22, 1934, formed an Armenian School Committee. Members were Megerdich Akellian, Manoog Jangochian, Dieran Berberian, Marliros Huchigian and Sarkis Filian.

Classes were held in Turian Hall under

the supervision of Mrs. Manooshag Telalian. Classes were held from 4 to 6 P.M., three times a week. Committee members worked hard to secure financial support for the school. In addition, the Armenian School had many devoted and capable teachers. Mrs. Nevart Hajian (Bakalian), during her teaching years, had more than thirty students in her classes. Mrs. Hajian terminated her teaching when she was married. The Armenian School committee then called on Mr. A. Hovasapian to teach. He was succeeded by another experienced teacher, Mrs.

Vartanoush Paboojian. After a short time, Yeretzgin Jelalian took over the supervision of the school.

At the present time, the Armenian School is divided into two groups. Classes are held for the first group on Saturdays, 10 to 12 A.M., in the Parish House in Fair Lawn. The second group meets from 2 to 4 P.M., at the Church Hall in Paterson. Both groups are under the supervision of Deacon Antranik Hallajian. The present Armenian School committee, formed by the Parish Council, consists of Mrs. Lucy Dabagian, Mrs. Dovie Tilbian, Mrs. Emerald Noorigan, Mrs. Flor-

ence Gulkasian, Mrs. Ann Bakalian, Mrs. Ann Pace and Mrs. Araxi Gamgochian.

On April 24, 1960, the Armenian School gave its first annual hantess. It was a great success. The Armenian School has an enrollment of 25 students. It is hoped that more students will join the school. Here they will learn their mother tongue, Armenian songs, recitations and Armenian history — all designed to maintain our Armenian heritage and help to continue the Armenian Church in Paterson and in the United States.



### ST. LEON'S CHURCH CHOIR

Our Choir has had its share of prominent members. In the beginning we were led by Sesak Sargavak Nalbandian, who later was ordained as Khoren Kabana Mamigonian. At the same time, the altar was served by Yeghishe Sargavak Churchian who performed these same functions even before St. Leon's Church was officially consecrated. He served in this capacity for many years until he retired recently. There was also Garabed Der Boghosian who assisted in the services for a number of years as did Mardiros Tellalian.

In more recent years, Bedros Shamirian performed the duties of Sargavak until his health forced him to withdraw.

Our first Organist at this time was Mrs. Esther Avedisian, who held this position for many years in addition to being Choir Director.

Taking over Mrs. Avedisian's duties when she gave up her position was Mrs. Isabelle Pabian, a long-time Choir member, who served in this capacity faithfully for a number of years.

Succeeding her as Organist was Lillian Boyajian, who in addition, sang as soloist. She left after her marriage to a Choir member of a neighboring Sister Parish.

It was in 1952 that Der Arten Ashjian as pastor of our parish was responsible for

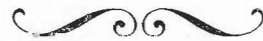
training a number of our Male Choir members to serve the Holy Altar. These include such members as Jack Hachigian, Charles Pinajian, Bared Dabaghian and Sarkis Jamgochian, who have all gone on to become deacons and are still active in these capacities. It was the foresightedness and capable tutelage of Der Arten Ashjian that has enabled our first generation Choir members to ascend to these positions.

During the many years of our church's existence, the experience at the altar of Mihran Noorigian has served to round out and help complete the training of our younger Deacons. Up until the present time, he is serving in this capacity along with

Deacon Antranik Hallajian during his three years of service in Paterson acting as Pastor.

In this relatively short time, Deacon Antranik has organized and trained the Junior Choir which numbers twenty-five. On a number of occasions, they have sung during the Sunday Services in the Divine Liturgy. Working with the Deacon to train the Junior Choir has been our experienced and capable Organist and Choir Director, Mrs. Lucy Dabagian, who has spent many, many hours in readying the children for this task.

We have a history which we can feel proud of and look forward to a more eventful one.



## ARMENIAN CHURCH

### YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

The St. Leon's chapter of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America was formed in 1948. The Paterson chapter, under the guidance and leadership of Shnorh Vartabed Kaloustian (now Bishop) applied for a membership charter in February 1950. At that time the ACYOA had a total registered membership of 20. Meetings were held once every month in the church hall.

The first officers were: President Der Arten Kahana Ashjian; Chairman Leo Bakalian; Vice Chairman Charles Pinajian; Treasurer Bette Noorigian; Secretary Helen Dishian and Publicity Director James Boyajian.

The policies of the organization were to work in harmony and cooperate with the priest and the parish Board of Trustees; to take a lively interest and active part in the affairs and management of the church, and

to create religious, cultural and educational activities in the community.

Of the 20 members, six were paid and active members of the church; two were Sunday School teachers and eleven ACYOA members were in the church choir.

The ACYOA sponsored the showing of religious films during Lent and Christmas. Also held were Bible readings, complete with explanation and discussions. The organization completed a Soorp Badarak booklet — an English translation — which was distributed in the pews of the church. With the aid of Der Arten, the ACYOA prepared a complete listing of all Armenians living in the Paterson area. Dormant for the past few years, the ACYOA will be revitalized this fall by Deacon Antranik.



### THE HISTORY OF ST. LEON'S GUILD

St. Leon's Guild, (Mr. and Mrs. Club) of St. Leon's Armenian Church was organized under the auspices of Archbishop Mampre Calfayan in March of 1953. The original executive board was comprised of E. George Dabagian, President; Peter Kafafian, Vice President; Recording Secretary, Margaret Semonian; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Dabbakian; Dovic Tilbian, Treasurer. It's main function is to participate in church activities and the welfare of the Armenian community.

Since its formation the organization has celebrated seven anniversaries. Its membership has grown to forty-six. Business meetings are held on the first Saturday of each

month. Each meeting is supplemented with social activities. In addition, the Guild holds many affairs throughout the year, such as square dances, trips to the seashore, picnics and parties. Athletics also play an important part in the Guild's program to help bring together many Armenian groups.

The St. Leon's Guild has participated in all church activities, Church bazaars, picnics. In its duty to the By-Laws, the Guild has contributed financially, in time and in effort to further all the affairs of the Church and its affiliated groups such as the Parish Council and Ladies Aid Society.

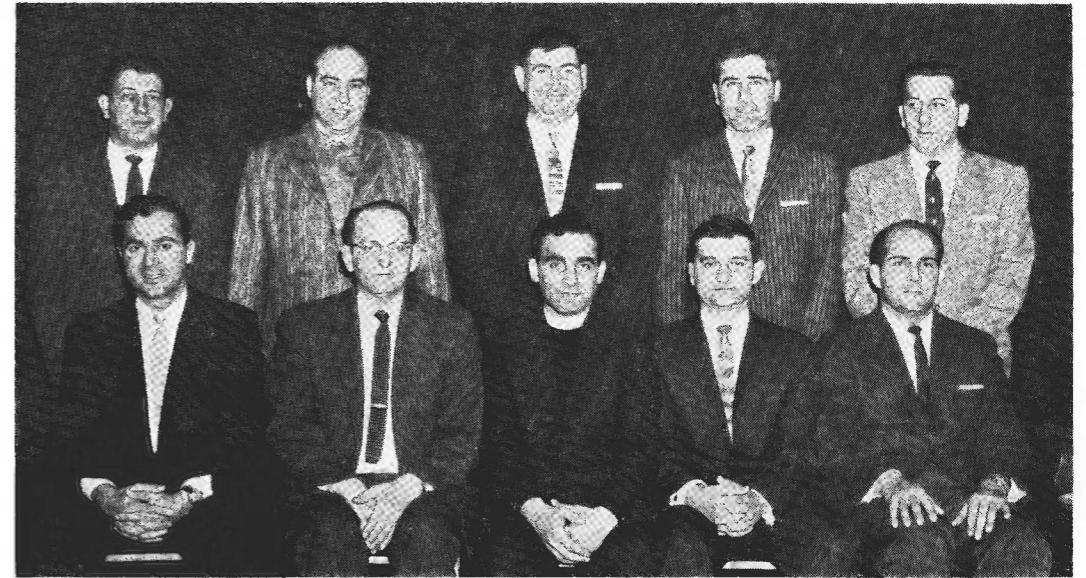
The highlight of last year's event was the Testimonial Dinner-Dance given by the

Guild to honor Ned J. Parsekian, Acting Motor Vehicle Director of New Jersey. There were many notables at this affair, among them, His Grace Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, former Primate of the Armenian Diocese; the Governor of New Jersey, The Honorable Robert B. Meyner and Mrs. Meyner, and the Attorney-General of New Jersey, Mr. David Furman and Mrs. Furman. The affair was a huge success in furthering Armenian prestige in the State. From the proceeds of the Testimonial, a generous gift was made to St. Leon's Church and the Home for the Armenian Aged at Emerson, New Jersey.

The Guild is planning to continue its ef-

forts to bring together all Armenian families in the area. The Guild welcomes new families in the area to the membership and urges them to join in the Guild's religious and social affairs. Those wishing to enjoy Armenian Church and social activities are requested to contact the present executive board who are:

*President* ..... Anthony Tungrian  
*Vice-President* ..... Arsen Marootian  
*Treasurer* ..... Evelyn Orr  
*Rec. Secretary* ..... Margaret A. Semonian  
*Corr. Secretary* ..... Helen Mardirossian  
*Advisors* ..... Jack Chekemian,  
 Haig Gamarekian, and Semon Semonian



### 1960 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

FRONT ROW — (left to right): Edward Torosian, Andrew Dabbakian, Deacon Antranik Hallajian, John Nakashian, Chairman; Charles Pinajian. BACK ROW — Sarkis Jamgochian, Tony Tungrian, Jack Chekemian, Hrant Yousoufian, Bared Dabaghian, (not present when photograph was taken); Milton Zara, Paul Hachigian.

### FORMER PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Setrak Ajamian	Charles Holopikian	Alex Phillian
*Sahag Avedisian	Mihran Jerrahian	Harootiun Sahatjian
*Sooren Avedisian	*Hagop Kafafian	John N. Sahatjian
John Azarian	John Kardashian	Anthony H. Purpuse
Michael Azarian	Diran Kurkjian	Hannah Shahinian
Leo Bakalian	Armenag Mardirossian	Alex Skenderian
Joseph Bakalian	Arsen Marootian	*Mnoosh Soghomonian
Sarkis Bakalian	Vartouhi Marootian	Harry Sohigian
*Hovoness Bejian	Zaven Marootian	*J. Tashjian
George Beshlian	Arshag Nakashian	*Albert Tfank
*Daniel Danielian	Sesag Nalbandian	Andrew Tilbian
Dikran Dishian	(Father Khoren Mamigonian)	*Aram Tilbian
*Haig Dishian	Leon Noorigian	Alex Vartanessian
Paul Dishian	Mihran Noorigian	Mary Vartanessian
Movses Hachigian		

\* Deceased

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ZAVEN MAROOTIAN  
Delegate



ANDREW TILBIAN  
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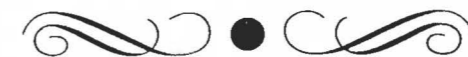
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THEY SERVED THEIR CHURCH



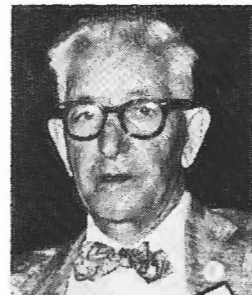
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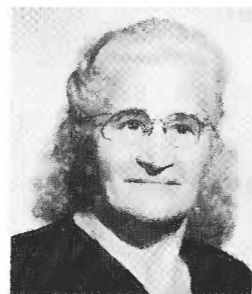
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HANNAH SHAHINIAN



MR. & MRS. GARABED DER BOGOSIAN



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IN MANY, MANY WAYS



SETRAG AJAMIAN



NAZAR SAHATJIAN



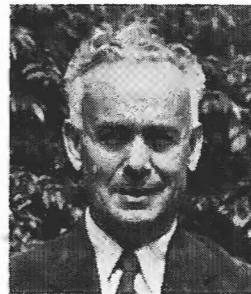
MUGURDICH AKELIAN



ALEC VARTANESIAN



SAHAG AVEDISIAN



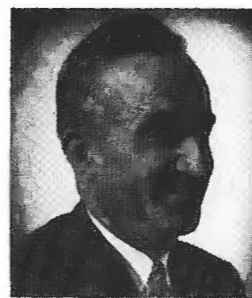
MOVSES HACHIGIAN



YEGHISHE CHURCHIAN



MIHRAN NOORIGIAN



HARRY SOHIGIAN



VARTOUHE MAROOTIAN



HAIG DISHIAN



SAM HEKEMIAN





IN MEMORY OF

**SAHAG and SOUREN AVEDISIAN**

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## PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEM - - - - - Mrs. C. Kasparian  
 INVOCATION - - - - - Archbishop Sion Manoogian  
 Primate of Armenian Diocese  
 of North America

### Dinner

WELCOME ADDRESS - - - - - Anthony H. Purpuse  
 General Chairman  
 MASTER OF CEREMONIES - - - - - Andrew S. Tilbian  
 GUEST SPEAKER - - - - - Rev. Socrates Mackitar  
 Pastor of Armenian Presbyterian  
 Church of West New York  
 OUR CHURCH - - - - - Deacon Antranik Hallajian  
 Pastor of St. Leon's Armenian Church  
 REMARKS - - - - - John Nakashian  
 Chairman Parish Council  
 St. Leon's Armenian Church  
 SOLOIST - - - - - Mrs. A. Mazoujian  
 Mrs. E. George Dabagian, *Accompanist*  
 GREETINGS - - - - - Richard Vander Plaat  
 Mayor of Fair Lawn, N. J.  
 ADDRESS - - - - - Archbishop Sion Manoogian  
 CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY - - - - - Dicran Bakalian  
 Peter Jesraly  
 "OORAKH LER" - - - - - Deacon Antranik Hallajian  
 "DER GETSO"  
 BLESSING - - - - - Archbishop Sion Manoogian  
 DANCING - - - - - Music by The New Yorkers

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ANTHONY H. PURPUSE

General Chairman

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Virgin Dabaghian  
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Recording Secretary  
Mary Hachigian  
Corresponding Secretary

**TREASURER**

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Charles Pinajian  
Mary Vartanessian

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As General Chairman, I am privileged to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every committee chairman and committee member for the conscientious and untiring effort put forth to make this 25th Anniversary celebration a success.

My sincere gratitude goes to our Deacon Antranig Hallajian, and Mr. Mihran Noorigian for their patient toil in accumulating and editing the history and chronology.

To the artists who willingly contributed their time and talent to this program, I extend my warmest appreciation.

Thanks also is due to Passaic Photo Engraving Co. and Jersey Printing and Office Supply Co. for their generosity and unselfish cooperation in the creation of this Anniversary booklet.

Most Sincerely,  
ANTHONY H. PURPUSE  
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